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<SUBJ>SUBJ: POW/MIA: LPDR VICE FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS REGARDING U.S. REQUESTS TO EXCAVATE CRASH SITES

<TEXT>
S E C R E T SPECAT NOFORN NOCONTRACT ORCON WHINTEL
CITE [redacted] F(b)(3)
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REPORT CLASS S E C R E T--WNINTEL--NOFORN--NOCONTRACT--ORCON
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COUNTRY: LAOS
SUBJ: POW/MIA: LPDR VICE FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS REGARDING U.S. REQUESTS TO EXCAVATE CRASH SITES
DOI: LATE JANUARY 1988
SOURCE: [redacted] F(b)(3)

TEXT: IN LATE JANUARY 1988, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (LPDR) VICE FOREIGN MINISTER ((SOUBANH)) SRITHILATH SAID THAT LPDR LEADERS BELIEVE THE UNITED STATES (U.S.) HAS NOT PROVIDED ENOUGH ECONOMIC AID TO THE LAOS TO ENCOURAGE THE LPDR GOVERNMENT TO SEARCH ACTIVELY FOR THE REMAINS OF U.S. SERVICEMEN MISSING IN ACTION IN LAOS. SOUBANH STATED THAT THE U.S. HAD PROMISED U.S.$200 MILLION IN AID AND PROPOSED BUILDING SMALL DISPENSARIES IN EACH LOCATION TO BE SEARCHED. NO PORTION OF THE U.S.$200 MILLION HAS YET BEEN RECEIVED HOWEVER, AND LPDR LEADERS REGARD THE U.S. PROPOSAL TO BUILD DISPENSARIES AS INSUFFICIENT. FINALLY, SOUBANH SAID THAT GIVEN THE DISCOURAGEMENT OF THE LPDR LEADERSHIP REGARDING THE LACK OF AID FOR EFFORTS ALREADY UNDERTAKEN, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE LPDR GOVERNMENT WOULD ATTEMPT TO LOCATE ADDITIONAL CRASH SITES UNTIL THE U.S. MAKES A MORE SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION.
ACQ: (LATE JANUARY 1988).
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